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Sask. boy to walk into World Cup spotlight

Brazil bound. Grade 5 student chosen as player escort for FIFA soccer tournament semifinal

ROSS ROMANIUK
Metro in Regina

He's only 10 years old, but a Saskatchewan boy is taking a step — actually, many of them — into the spotlight of the world's largest sporting event.

William Song of Regina is days away from travelling to Brazil to become a player escort for a semifinal game at the FIFA World Cup.

He was selected as one of five children across Canada to get the opportunity in Rio de Janeiro, through a program run by the McDonald's restaurant chain as a World Cup sponsor.

William is eager to walk onto the soccer field on July 4 with one of the players on the final four teams in the tournament.

"I'm really excited," he said Wednesday at his home, adding that he's also somewhat nervous to step into the televised game viewed by fans around the globe.

"A little bit. Because there will be a whole bunch of people looking down at me when I walk in."

William, who just finishing Grade 5 at W.S. Hawrylak School, was chosen through the McDonald's Canada program that will see five Canadian kids aged six to 10 join more than 1,400 others from 69 countries as player escorts at the soccer extravaganza.

The coach of his hockey team played a role, nominating the youngster for the program based on his leadership and commitment.

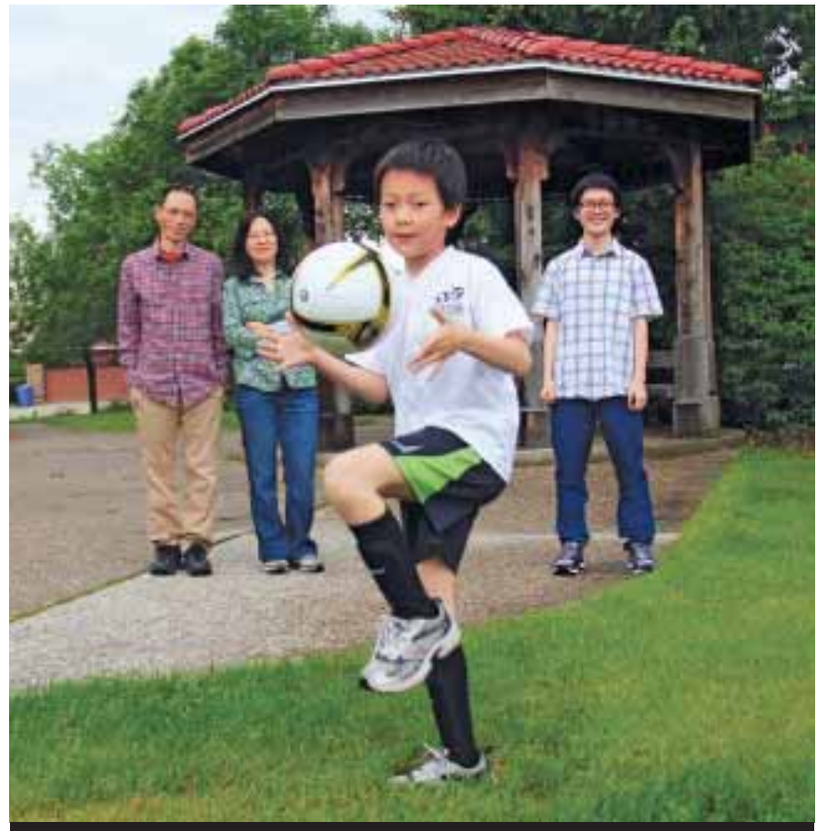
Henry Song, William's father, will make the trip with his son, courtesy of the fast-food company. He calls it a "dream come true" for both of them.

"I'm really thrilled. It's a once-in-a-whole-life thing for William. I don't think many kids have this opportunity," he said.

"And I'm a fan of soccer, but I had never had this chance."

Though he hasn't played organized soccer for a few years, William — a defenceman on the Capitals, an atom tier-3 hockey team — will take another kick at it during his four days in Rio, when the young escorts get a chance to hit the pitch for fun matches.

"I like both sports a lot," he said. "I just don't know which one to choose."



William Song, 10, is excited to fly to Rio de Janeiro to become a player escort at the World Cup in July. His father Henry Song, mother Yang Zhao and brother Qianlin Song, from left at rear, are thrilled about his opportunity. ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO IN REGINA

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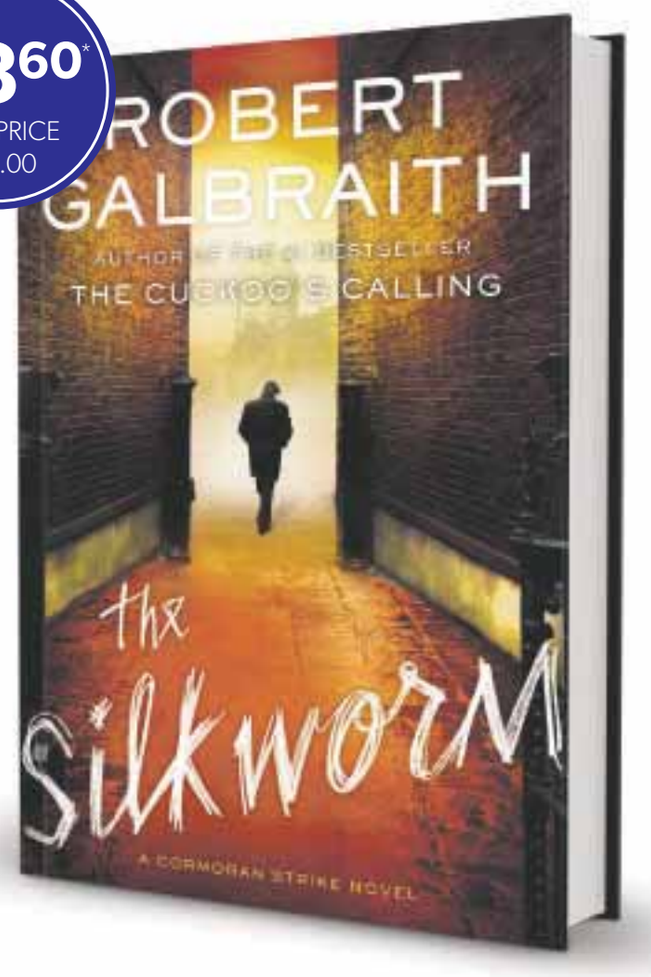
The Silkworm

by **Robert Galbraith**

A writer is missing, and there's a brutal, devious killer on the loose. Private detective Cormoran Strike is on the case, but he's about to discover there are some stories that don't want to be told.

Author of the first Cormoran Strike mystery, *The Cuckoo's Calling*, Robert Galbraith is the pen name of the bestselling author of the 21st century, JK Rowling.



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Water Security Agency keeps close watch on Alberta rains

Jazz Festival. Cruises still planned despite increase in river levels

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

Saskatchewan's Water Security Agency (WSA) is keeping an eye on wet weather in southern Alberta.

With heavy rain and rising river levels forcing several southern Alberta communities to declare states of emergency, the WSA is watching its provincial neighbour to determine how rising river levels will impact Saskatchewan.

"What we're doing is we're looking at the situation in Alberta and seeing how much rainfall is actually going to materialize," said WSA manager of corporate communications, Patrick Boyle.

"The question really is how much more rain is going to come."

On Wednesday, outflows at Gardiner Dam, which is located roughly 25 kilometres north of the Village of Elbow, Sask., were increased by the WSA to 900 cubic metres per second from 380, causing a rise in river levels of a metre and a half on the South Saskatchewan River.

Boyle said flow levels could increase if rain continues.

However, precipitation originally predicted by Alberta Environment — between 150 to 200 mm starting on Tuesday — only materialized in isolated areas.

As a result, flow predictions on the South Saskatchewan River in Southern Alberta dropped to roughly 2,400 cubic metres per second from 5,300, meaning less water flowing into the Gardiner Dam, which mitigates river flows from Alberta.

During the 2013 Alberta floods, flows on the South Saskatchewan River in Saskatoon reached roughly 2,000 cubic metres per second.

This caused road and trail closures and forced the rescheduling of jazz cruises on the Prairie Lily riverboat as part of the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival.

Mike Steckhan, president of Shearwater Marine Services and Shearwater River Cruises, which run the Prairie Lily, said current levels wouldn't impact upcoming shows, which start Friday.

Mike Steckhan, president of Shearwater Marine Services and Shearwater River Cruises, is pictured in front of the Prairie Lily riverboat on Wednesday. He says current river levels won't impact upcoming jazz cruises. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

"We are still a go for jazz festival, in fact we still have some openings," he said.

"If they open the dam far beyond what they anticipate, then we'll have to make some decisions at that point," he said. "But so far, with what they forecast for the levels that they anticipate, (it's) no problem."

Sask.'s population grows by over 5K in first quarter

Saskatchewan posted the second-highest population growth rate of all Canadian provinces in the first quarter of this year, as the Prairie province continued to attract swelling numbers of immigrants.

According to figures released on Wednesday by Statistics Canada, 1,122,588 people lived in Saskatchewan as of April 1 — an increase of 5,085 since the beginning of 2014 and more than 21,000 over the past year. Only Alberta's growth rate was greater during the same period.

"Our province continues to grow. Our plan is to grow it to 1.2 million," Economy Minister Bill Boyd told reporters at Regina's Evraz Place.

The province, meanwhile, recorded a natural increase — in births minus deaths — of 1,211 during that period.

Boyd pointed to oil and gas, agriculture and the lumber industry as examples of Saskatchewan's strong economic patchwork that has lured workers from outside the province. He said Saskatchewan will "need about 75,000 or 80,000 people in the next year "to fill the jobs available in the province."

Saskatchewan's net gain in inter-provincial migration was 794 in the first quarter.

"Most of the growth from other part of Canada is coming from Ontario and Manitoba," Boyd said.

MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO IN REGINA

Migration

International migration is responsible for the bulk of the increase, with the province seeing a net gain of 3,080 immigrants in the first three months of 2014.

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Investigators assess the damage to homes and property on Wednesday, a day after a tornado touched down in Angus, Ont. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A 'miracle' no one hurt in Ontario tornado: Officials

'Moving forward.'
Mayor of Essa Township says around 100 homes in Angus, Ont., were damaged after twister touched down Tuesday

The mayor of a central Ontario community says it's a miracle no one was hurt when a tornado ripped through the area Tuesday.

Essa Township Mayor Terry Dowdall said about 100 homes were damaged in Angus, which is located in the township.

Dowdall, who joined emergency officials Wednesday morning to give an update on the situation, said he has never seen such destruction in the community.

"Weather seems to be changing, I think, in the province of Ontario," he said. "But I've never seen, and basically no one's seen, devastation quite like this."

The tornado blew out windows, tore up fences and sheared off the tops of some homes when it hit at about 5:30 p.m. but caused no serious injuries.

"I think it was the right time of day," said Essa Fire Chief Cynthia Tustin, calling it an "amazing piece of timing."

"People weren't asleep … people were up and people were able to be aware of what's going on," she said. "It was really a miracle that nobody was hurt at that time of day," added Dowdall.

Provincial police Const. Kelly Daniels said the priority now is to ensure homes are safe enough for people to go back inside and retrieve needed personal items like medication.

She says residents who have been displaced from their homes will be escorted by police and fire officials when they go inside and it will be done home by home.

"Now that we know everyone is safe, our job is to protect their property," said Daniels.

Emergency officials also planned holding a meeting with residents Wednesday afternoon at the Angus recreation centre to discuss what happens next.

"We're moving forward, we have a new day and a new plan," said Dowdall, adding building officials would immediately begin assessing properties. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Backyards in Angus, Ont., are shown on Tuesday. Scan the photo with your Metro News app for a gallery of the damage. GREG FACCHINI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

180 km/h winds

Assessing the severity of twister's damage

Environment Canada says preliminary estimates suggest the tornado that struck Angus was an EF-2 with estimated wind speeds near 180 km/h. The scale ranges from EF-0 to EF-5.

A survey team was to return to the area Wednesday to further assess the nature and severity of the damage from Angus to Barrie, the weather agency said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Controversy. Patent office pulls Redskins trademark for 'disparaging' natives

The U.S. Patent Office ruled Wednesday that the Washington Redskins nickname is "disparaging of Native Americans" and that the team's federal trademarks for the name must be cancelled.

The 2-1 ruling comes after a campaign to change the name gained momentum over the past year. The team doesn't immediately lose trademark protection and is allowed to retain it during a likely appeal.

Redskins owner Dan Snyder has refused to change the team's name, citing tradition, but there has been growing pressure, including statements in recent months from U.S. President Barack Obama, lawmakers and civil rights groups.

The decision means that the team can continue to use the Redskins name, but it would lose a significant portion of its ability to protect the financial interests connected to its use. If others printed the name on sweatshirts, apparel or other team material, it becomes more difficult to go after groups who use it without permission.

The case involves six registered trademarks that involve the use of the word Redskins, but it does not apply to the team's logo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Washington Redskins helmet lies on the field Wednesday in Ashburn, Va. NICK WASS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa

Police, paramedics injured in training exercise explosion

Two paramedics were seriously injured while two Ottawa police officers sustained minor injuries Wednesday during a training exercise that involved the use of explosives to practise forced-entry techniques, police say.

The officers and paramedics were part of an exercise using explosives to force their way into an abandoned residence when the accident occurred, Ottawa police Chief Charles Bordeleau told a news conference.

A third paramedic also sustained minor injuries, Bordeleau said. All five victims were immediately transported to hospital.

"Their injuries are serious in nature, but I am told they will recover," Bordeleau said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The longest yard

Michigan prison drug-smuggling pass gets fumbled

Michigan authorities say a man tried to throw a football loaded with drugs and cellphones into the yard of a state prison.

State Trooper Toby Baker says Sunday's throw in Jackson fell short, with the football landing between two fences, not in the yard where prisoners exercise.

An officer at the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility saw the man throw the football, and officers arrested the suspect.

Reports say the ball contained heroin, marijuana, tobacco and three cellphones.

Christen D. Moore, 22, was arraigned Tuesday in Jackson District Court on contraband charges. His probable-cause hearing is June 30. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ellen Kooijman's female scientist Lego figurines. Scan the image with your Metro News App to see a gallery of previous girl-oriented Lego products.

Lego figurines of female scientists get thumbs-up

Lego of my aspirations!

Designs aim to change outdated gender stereotypes

Lego is traditionally the building blocks for many a boy's happy childhood. But Ellen Kooijman, a Dutch geosciences researcher based in Sweden, is hoping to change outdated stereotypes with mini-figurine designs that include a female astronomer, a paleontologist and a chemist.

Kooijman put forward her box set called Research Institute to the Lego Ideas website where fans can pitch prospective toy sets.

But before a proposal's life in plastic becomes a reality, it must first reach Lego's required 10,000-vote threshold and pass muster before a review board before finally going into production.

The scientist spoke to Metro about her love of Lego and breaking down gender stereotypes.

When and why did you first get into Lego?

It was my favourite toy as a child, so I've built with Lego bricks almost my whole life, except for a period during my teenage years which adult fans of Lego call the "dark ages."

Are you not a bit old for Lego?

I see it as a great medium to express my creativity in three dimensions. You can basically build anything on any scale and the best thing is you can take it apart again and build something new.

Were past Lego sets sexist?

As a female scientist, I had noticed two things about the available Lego sets: a skewed male-female mini-figure ratio and a rather stereotypical representation of the available female figures. It seemed logical that I would suggest a small set of female mini-figures in interesting professions to make our Lego city communities more diverse.

In what ways are your figurines an improvement on the toys of old?

I think Lego as a toy has always been gender-neutral in principle, since the bricks come in all colors and you can use them to build whatever your imagination can come up with. But their marketing has been more towards boys for a significant period.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Not just for boys

Lego launched its Friends product line in 2012, designed to appeal primarily to girls.

- The theme includes mini-doll figures, which are about the same size as the traditional mini-figures.
- The sets include pieces in pink and purple colour schemes and often depict scenes from suburban life.

U.S. border stations show their squalor

Children's faces pressed against glass. Hundreds of young boys and girls covered with aluminum-foil-like blankets next to chain-link fences. The pungent odour that comes with keeping dirty travellers in close quarters.

These were the sights from Wednesday tours of crowded Border Patrol stations in Texas and Arizona, where thousands of immigrants are being held before they are transferred to other shelters around the country.

It was the first time the media was given access to the facilities since President Barack Obama called the more than 47,000 unaccompanied children who have entered the country illegally this budget year an "urgent humanitarian situation."

Border Patrol stations like the one in Brownsville, Texas, and Nogales, Arizona, were not meant for long-term custody. Immigrants are supposed to wait there until they are processed and taken to detention centres. But the surge in children arriving without their parents has overwhelmed the U.S. government.

The surge, which has been building for three years, comes amid a steep overall increase in immigrant arrests in southernmost Texas.

The children are mostly from Central America. They pose a particular challenge because the law requires Customs and Border Protection to transfer them to Health and Human Services within 72 hours.

That agency's network of some 100 shelters around the U.S.A. has been over capacity for months and is now caring for more than 7,600 children.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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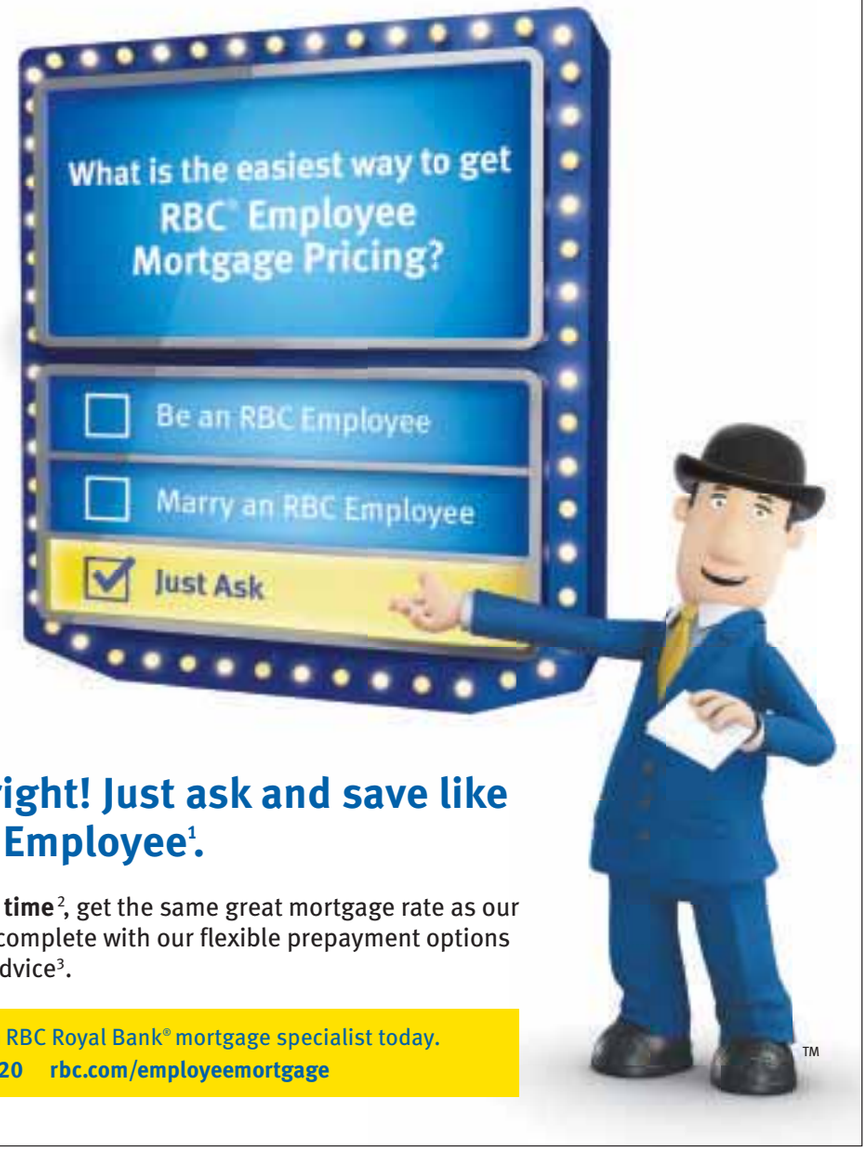

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A pro-Russia fighter pets dogs at a checkpoint in the village of Karlivka near Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, Wednesday, before a handover of the bodies of Ukrainian troops killed in a plane shot down near Luhansk.

EVGENIY MALOLETKA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine president promises ceasefire

Separatist fighting. Petro Poroshenko discussed plan with Russia, Germany

The new president of Ukraine promised on Wednesday that government troops would soon stop firing on pro-Russia armed separatists, offering a chance to end the fighting that has killed hundreds and wracked the industrial east.

In another concession to Moscow, Petro Poroshenko replaced his foreign minister, who had outraged Russians by using an obscenity to describe President Vladimir Putin.

An end to the two months of fighting and a promised safe exit for rebels would allow Putin to say that Russia has fulfilled its goal of protecting Russian speakers in eastern Ukraine, while Poroshenko can claim victory over the rebellion.

The Ukrainian president discussed his plan for a unilateral ceasefire in a phone call with Putin late Tuesday, their offices said, and Poroshenko also spoke with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Russia's foreign minister cautiously welcomed the move, but voiced concern that it could be a ruse. One key question is whether Moscow is willing and able to persuade the pro-Russia insurgents to accept Poroshenko's plan.

Rebel leaders have remained defiant, but in a sign of behind-the-scenes manoeuvring, some of them visited Moscow this week to meet with senior officials and lawmakers.

The two sides managed to arrange a brief truce Wednesday evening in the eastern town of Karlivka to allow pro-Russian forces to hand over the bodies of 49 Ukrainian troops who died when the separatists shot down a transport plane bound for the airport in Luhansk last weekend.

But after the truck carrying the remains had passed to the Ukrainian side, both sides fell back to their positions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Insurgents

"The war will go on until we win."

A pro-Russia fighter who identified himself as Sova, after the body handover

World Cup violence

Stray bullet grazes Brazilian boy, 7

A stray bullet grazed the neck of a seven-year-old boy near a site where thousands had gathered to watch a large-screen broadcast of Brazil playing Mexico in the World Cup host city of Fortaleza, police said Wednesday.

Police said they are investigating the cause of Tuesday's shooting. No one else was hurt and the hospital where the boy was being treated says his wound was not life-threatening.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Turn now!'

Man cited for spot check warning

A suburban Cleveland man says police violated his First Amendment rights to free speech when they cited him for holding a sign warning motorists to turn if they wanted to avoid a DUI checkpoint.

Douglas Odolecki, 43, warned motorists with the sign Friday night in Parma that said: "Check point ahead! Turn now!"

A police spokesman said officers cited Odolecki after he refused to remove the "Turn now!" portion of the sign. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conditional release

Moncton man pleads guilty after threatening cops

A man pleaded guilty Wednesday to uttering a threat to cause death to peace officers and was released from jail on conditions, including one that prohibits him from having any contact with Justin Bourque, charged with first-degree murder in the shooting deaths of three RCMP officers in Moncton.

Jasper John Stam, 24, was charged June 9 for an incident that occurred between May 10 and 18.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teen who travelled in plane's wheel well speaks publicly: He just wanted to find mom

A Somali-born teenager who survived a flight to Hawaii as a stowaway in the plane's wheel well said he hopped on the closest flight that was going west in an effort to find his birth mom, and can't believe he survived the journey.

Yahya Abdi, 15, spoke over Google Chat to KPIX-5 in his first public comments since his improbable survival during the 5-1/2-hour flight from San Jose to Maui in April. The interview was reported on Tuesday night.

Abdi, a Somali immigrant, ran away from his California home and hopped a fence at Mineta San Jose International Airport. He crouched down in the wheel well of the Hawaiian Airlines flight and remembers covering his ears as the plane took off, he said.

"It was above the clouds. I could see through the little holes," Abdi said.

Abdi survived the flight at 35,000 feet despite low oxygen and freezing temperatures.

The teen said he made the decision to get on board the plane because he didn't want to live with his stepmom and wanted to find his mother, whom he hasn't seen since he was seven years old. She lives in Africa.

Abdi spoke to her on the phone on Tuesday.

"I would tell her to live with me in America," he said.

His mom, Ubah Mohammed Abdule, confirmed the conversation to The Associated Press.

"He says, 'Mom, you are not dead for sure?"' Abdule told the AP. "'I thought you died in a boat trip. This is incredible news!' Then he became silent for a moment. Then he cried."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Where he is now

Abdi is staying at a temporary foster home. He will be a junior in high school this fall and plans to live with his aunt in the Minneapolis area, KPIX-5 reported.

- "I've been going to the movie theatre and playing video games," he said.
- Earlier this year, police said they were investigating possible criminal charges against the boy for climbing the airport fence, and that the teen was being cared for by child protective services.

Stuck in the air

"It was above the clouds. I could see through the little holes."

Yahya Abdi, 15, on his 5-1/2 hour journey from San Jose to Maui

Manitoba uses potash to kill off zebra mussels

Manitoba has declared victory in its first battle with invading zebra mussels but says the unique treatment it used to kill the shellfish doesn't mean the province is free of them yet.

The province sealed off four harbours in mid-May with a silt curtain before injecting liquid potash into the water. The concentration of potash was increased until it suffocated the mussels.

The experiment received global attention because it's believed to be the first time liquid potash has been used in open water. Scientists who study the mussels called it a "golden opportunity" to find a way to prevent their proliferation in water bodies around the world.

Conservation Minister Gord Mackintosh said the treatment was successful and killed the mussels in the harbours. But it was just the first step in the fight to keep the mussels out of the province, he added.

"We've won the first battle in what is likely to be a long war and it must be a hard-fought war," Mackintosh said Wednesday. "There is a good chance that zebra mussels are still lurking outside of the treated harbour areas. We have got to detect wherever else these zebra mussels might be."

The invasive species, which has been in the Great Lakes for almost two decades and has spread throughout parts of the United States, was discovered for the first time in Manitoba last October.

The mussels reproduce quickly and can disrupt the food chain, clog water pipes and create algae.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Zebra mussels are small clam-like creatures that seem to spread in the blink of an eye and squeeze the life out of the rivers and lakes they inhabit.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Will Amazon blaze a new path with the Fire phone?

The everything store.
CEO Jeff Bezos unveils the phone in Seattle

Amazon has introduced a new smartphone with audio and object recognition technology that seeks to make it easier for consumers to locate and purchase products and services from America's largest e-commerce company.

Specs and features:
• The phone is smaller than leading Android phones, but larger than Apple's iPhone. CEO Jeff Bezos calls the screen, measuring 4.7 inches diagonally, ideal for one-handed use.

• The new Fire phone also adds such features as the ability to render images in 3D. You can rotate the phone and get a different view depending on your angle of vision. Bezos calls this "dynamic perspective" and said the phone is basically redrawing the image 60 times per second.

• The Fire phone will bring features found in other Amazon devices, such as X-Ray for supplemental content and Mayday for live tech support. There's also access to ebooks, which members can borrow with Amazon's $99 US-a-year Prime program.

• Firefly is the centrepiece of the new phone. Snap a photo of a book, and it'll help you buy it, either as an ebook or a physical copy. Listen to a song playing in the background, and it'll direct you to that tune on Amazon. It can even direct you to facts and data, by showing a Wikipedia entry with information about a painting you snapped. The feature will also let you snap bar codes, phone numbers and more.

Availability:
• The phone will be available July 25 in the U.S. exclusively through AT&T. People can start ordering it Wednesday.

• Prices are comparable to those of other leading high-end phones, but the Fire will have double the storage. It will cost $200 for a base model with 32 gigabytes and $300 for 64 gigabytes. Both require two-year service contracts. Without contracts, they will cost $650 and $750.

Not a first:
• Facebook once tried to release a phone tied to its services. The HTC First, released in April 2013, came with Facebook's Home software, which takes over the phone's front screen to present status updates, messages and other content. Both the phone and the software flopped.

• Google also has its own phones under the Nexus brand, mostly to showcase its Android operating system. Google makes Android available for free for any phone manufacturer to use and modify. That makes it difficult to know what's really Android and what's a modification.

The backdrop:
• Amazon.com Inc. got its start in books and soon moved into music, video, devices and more. Analysts believe the goal of an Amazon-branded smartphone is to get customers to buy more things from the nation's largest e-commerce company. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos introduces the new Amazon Fire phone Wednesday in Seattle. TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

iPhone is still No. 1 in Canada ... for now

BlackBerrys are vanishing in Canada while Google Android ownership grows steadily, but Apple's iPhone (pictured) is still the most popular smartphone in the country, suggests a new report.

About 85 per cent of the adult anglophone population now has a cellphone, while three quarters of them carry a smartphone, according to a report by the Media Technology Monitor, based on telephone surveys this spring with more than 2,000 Canadians.

The iPhone was the device of choice among 42 per cent of the smartphone owners, while a variety of phones on the Android platform collectively made up 39 per cent of the market.

To no one's surprise, the MTM survey found BlackBerry's share of the market has withered away in its home country. In 2009, 61 per cent of Canadian smartphone owners said they used a BlackBerry. Now, just 14 per cent call themselves devotees of the struggling brand. BlackBerry's market share plunged by half in the past two years, according to MTM.

While Apple initially won over most of the consumers who abandoned their BlackBerrys, the Android platform has seen more growth in recent years.

Samsung in particular has made the most gains. Its line of Galaxy phones now accounts for 61 per cent of the Android devices in Canada, and 24 per cent of the overall smartphone market, MTM says.

Consumers in the 18-to-34 demographic and those with an income under $75,000 were more likely to use an Android phone, while buyers over 35 with higher incomes were more likely to choose an iPhone.

Cellphone ownership has barely budged up in recent years — suggesting that whoever wants a mobile phone already has one — but the number of smartphones being used is increasing.

As recently as 2011, the split of smartphones versus older cellphones in Canada was 50/50. And in 2009, just one in five mobiles phones in Canada were smartphones. Now, just under 80 per cent of Canadian phone owners have chosen a smartphone.

MTM also asked phone owners how often they're using some of the newer features on their devices.

Nearly 40 per cent of smartphone users said they made a video call in the last month with a service like Skype, Apple's FaceTime or Google Hangouts. Students were the most likely group to say they regularly made video calls.

About one in five smartphone users said they now occasionally watch TV on their small screen, and one in four steam audio on their mobile.

The poll results are based on interviews conducted by Forum Research Inc. between March 18 and April 19. The results are considered accurate within 2.2 percentage points 19 times out of 20. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BlackBerry and Amazon

BlackBerry Ltd. is adding the Amazon Appstore in the next update to its operating system this fall.

- The move will give users of the BlackBerry 10.3 operating system easy access to thousands more of the most popular Android apps and games. The smartphone maker has been criticized for the lack of applications available for its devices.
- By adding the Amazon App store, BlackBerry says its app developer program can put more emphasis on business and productivity applications. The Waterloo, Ont., company has been working to return to its business-focused roots as consumers have flocked to Apple and Android smartphones.
- BlackBerry recently announced a three-year mobile payment agreement with EnStream, a joint venture between Canada's three biggest telecom companies.

CIBC economists

Job stability at record high: Report

A job for life? It sounds like an outdated notion, but a new report suggests job stability is as prevalent today as it ever was.

CIBC economists looking at the job stability phenomenon say their analysis shows it at an all-time high, or at least at a record high since Statistics Canada started gathering the data in the 1970s. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 92.17¢ (+0.12¢)

TSX 15,109.25 (+53.36)

OIL $105.97 US (-$0.39)

GOLD $1,272.70 US (+$0.70)

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DON'T HATE SOCCER BECAUSE IT'S BEAUTIFUL

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Why do some people hate soccer so much?

As the World Cup unfolds with the impressive array of Google doodles it's known for, people from all over the world are crowding around TVs in colourful clots to cheer on The Beautiful Game. But as Pantene taught us in the '80s, sometimes people hate you because you're beautiful, despite your protestations.

Soccer is wildly popular in my city (Toronto), but my Facebook feed, Internet comment boards and the occasional overheard conversation show me that people who don't like soccer feel deeply about it in a way usually reserved for heated emotional topics: abortion, euthanasia, Nickelback.

Soccer fandom isn't mandatory, but the need of many Canadians to loudly let you know how much they hate the game strikes me as over the top — the equivalent of a player who grabs his shin and plummets to the ground, face contorted, as if he stumbled upon a particularly strong pocket of gravity. Check any Internet forum. You'll see people write under soccer stories about how much they hate soccer, often in dismissive, angry terms.

Reading Internet comments is like wilfully exposing yourself to radiation, but here's a real quote I dug up in about 18 seconds of research (lost some hair, but I'll be OK): "Ahhh Soccer the sport of choice for the 3rd world and poor unwashed masses."

Good point, anonymous dude, but I for one think it's nice the Dutch, Australians and Japanese have a game to distract them from the squalor of their failed nations.

Soccer is Canada's most widely played sport, so if you consider "foreign" a detriment then you'd best avoid lasagna, too. Of course, many online soccer detractors are the same people who write under every news story about how multiculturalism is a failure because 100 per cent of the people in their parents' basement are white males. Consider the source.

But it's not just the xenophobic online crazies who give soccer a rough ride. I've seen two World Cup games in public so far, and both times one guy, apparently dragged there by friends, felt compelled to let others know mid-game that hockey is better, as if one couldn't be a fan of both sports simultaneously. Despite the low scores, soccer doesn't need to be a zero-sum game.

The complaint from hockey fans is almost always the same: Hockey players are tougher than soccer players because soccer players dive a lot and then there's a hilarious joke about a diving team. And, fine, there is too much diving. But it's just one form of the cheating that exists in all sports. It doesn't excuse it, but it's universal.

I've heard people ask why it's allowed to continue with the frequency it does ("Aren't they embarrassed?"), but many baseball fans absolve successful players of their steroid use faster than it takes Big Papi to run the bases.

Not in honour-bound hockey? Well, there's the whole cheating thing where players bruise each other's brains and occasionally crack a vertebrae or two by smashing into their heads from behind at 40 km/h. At least in soccer's cheating, nobody gets hurt, quite literally.

So, whether you're a soccer fan or not, let's live and let live. It's a game the whole world loves, and that's a beautiful thing. Now let us unite in our hatred of Nickelback. Olé, Olé, Olé!

ZOOM

iMages of the year

Felicia Pandola, from Providence, R.I., took the nature category by storm, so to speak, with this foreboding beach pic. ALL IMAGES COURTESY IPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Photogs win bars of gold for iPhone pics

As all your brilliant selfies have no doubt already shown you, you don't need a fancy camera to take great shots. The iPhone Photography Awards, running annually since 2007, showcase the best images taken with, and edited on, an iPhone, iPod or iPad. This year's winning entries were submitted by 54 photographers from 17 countries. And they weren't just competing for the glory: Each first-place winner, aided by their trusty Apple device, received a gold bar from a private mint. Can your DSLR do that? METRO

Michael O'Neal said he pulled out both his DSLR and iPhone when he encountered this guy at Colter Bay Beach in Wyoming, but the iPhone shots trumped the "real" camera ones. He won for the animal category.

METRO AUGMENTED REALITY

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In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on pages 4 and 5 in News, page 11 in Life and page 13 in Sports

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MetroTube

metro AR

Here a duck, there a duck, everywhere a duck duck ...

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

It's nice to think that, when the calendar flipped to 2014, we all silently vowed to put the "Would you rather fight one horse-sized duck or 100 duck-sized horses" question to rest forever.

Sure, it's amusing and can provide rich territory for mining clever answers. But it really only carried as many uses as a razor blade. Plus, we have new video evidence of what a duck-sized-horse stampede would look like. Suddenly, the choice is easy. (OK Go/YouTube)

GETTY IMAGES

metro

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Artistic producer is shaking it up at Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan

Fresh blood. Will Brooks brings contemporary elements and an all-hands-on-deck approach to this year's festival

BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca

As Juliet said to Romeo, parting is such sweet sorrow. As Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan's new artistic producer, Will Brooks knows the line well. He also knows the feeling.

"I had a really great position at Persephone and was really enjoying the work and was really quite proud of what we had done with the youth program and shows I had directed. So I certainly wasn't in the market," Brooks said.

The former youth programming director says it took a remarkable opportunity to leave the company. But the top job at Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan isn't just a prestigious role; it's a homecoming of sorts for Brooks.

"It was the first place I worked out of university and I spent the first seven years of my career with it as my anchor. I learned a lot and really cut my teeth here, and had been missing it."

Brooks was named to the post in February and hit the ground running. With less than three weeks remaining until opening night, there is a flurry of activity on both sides of the river as rehearsals are being held at the Mitchell Building on campus while the festival site is prepped.

"We had five different rehearsals going at once on Saturday with all of the different elements, while we've got crews down on the site, building the stage and tent and people getting the box office ready to open. It's quite wonderful to watch all of the moving parts because there's a lot of great people who know what they're doing."

As for the specifics of Brooks' role, he'll direct Romeo and Juliet this year while handing off the duties on The Taming of the Shrew and running the company.

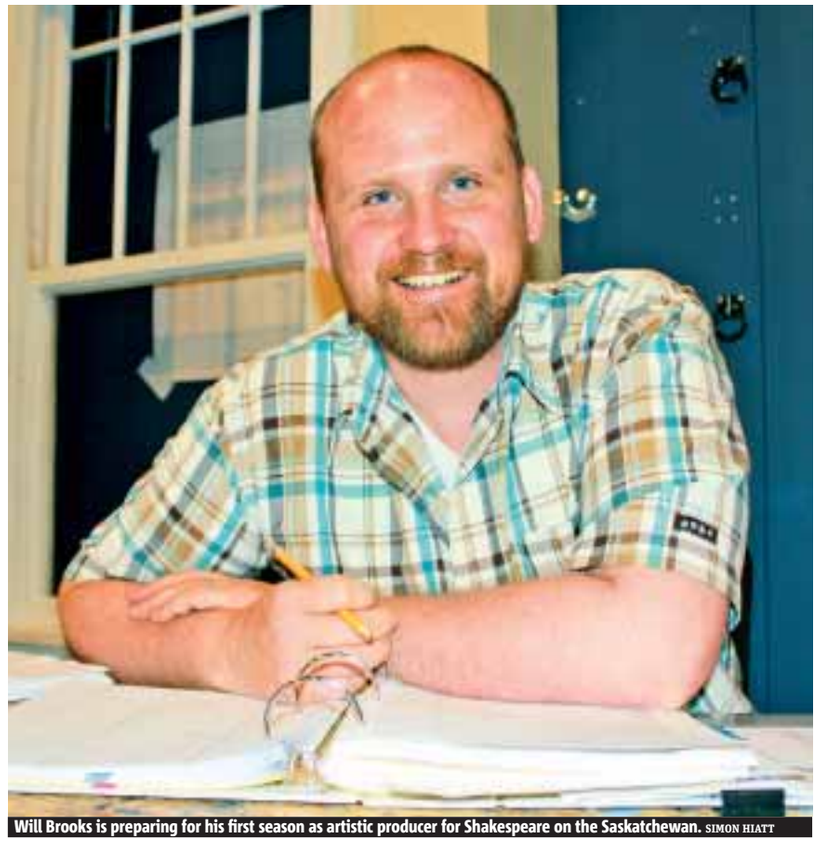
He takes over from Mark von Eschen, who held the title of artistic director. Brooks says the change in title to artistic producer is designed to reflect more accurately the all-encompassing nature of the job.

"The biggest difference for me is that we have two directors for the two shows this year, which gives me the chance to be in rehearsals in the morning and then pop back to the office and work on some of the other things that go along with the job."

Coming back

"I learned a lot and really cut my teeth here, and had been missing it."

Will Brooks, artistic producer of Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan
on returning to work at the festival



Will Brooks is preparing for his first season as artistic producer for Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan. SIMON HIATT

Taming with a twist

Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan's production of The Taming of the Shrew will have a couple of unique elements.

- The 1960s set interpretation will feature a doo-wop band and for only the second time in company history, a play will be directed by a female, Johnna Wright.
- "Shakespeare is fantastic, but it was written in a different time for a very different kind of company and I think it's important to find a female artist's voice, especially with a play like Taming of the Shrew which deals with gender and class and hierarchy — all those kinds of things," Brooks said.

TODAY'S TIP
Sun Care
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Getting set to take on the great Canadian outdoors? Find a safer place under the sun with our light, 0% alcohol Dry Mist® spray.
* When you buy any 2 participating Ombrelle products. Offer ends July 11, 2014. See store for details.
Get 2500 SHOPPERS OPTIMUM BONUS POINTS**
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Take care. GARNIER
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Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Source claims Bieber rolled 'burrito-sized joints' in his van in 2012

Apparently Justin Bieber's hard-partying ways that have been getting him into trouble lately aren't a new development, at least not according to photos provided by a fan to Radar Online of Bieber and company turning his van into a weed- and beer-fuelled mobile party on a September 2012 trip to Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Calif.

"They hot-boxed and drank Heinekens from the fridge Justin keeps in the van," the anonymous source says. "There was no bong or anything, just Justin rolling his own burrito-sized joints. I mean, f—ing huge." Among the revellers was Bieber's then-girlfriend, Selena Gomez. "Everyone smoked, including Selena," the source says. "We smoked at least six joints and were high as a kite by the time we rolled into Knott's."

Katy Perry

Katy and Rob sitting in a tree, K.I.S.S.I.N.G

Robert Pattinson and Katy Perry were reportedly "all over each other" after the L.A. premiere of his new film, The Rover, according to Us Weekly.

"When Rob saw Katy his eyes lit up. She looked gorgeous in a lace sequin black mini-dress, and they hugged and kissed," a source says. "At least 10 hotties were hovering around Rob, but his focus was on Katy. He kept kissing her the entire night. When Katy got up from a sofa that was in front of a fireplace, Robert walked over to her. They kissed and hugged again. They were clearly trying to stay under the radar, but they couldn't help showing their feelings."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

More Head-ey games from GOT star

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Lena Headey is a monster. I don't mean that her Game of Thrones character, Cersei Lannister, is a monster, though that's true. I mean that she herself is a stone cold sociopath. She's toying with GOT fans and she doesn't even feel bad about it.

Headey appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live wearing a shirt that says "I'm not sorry," surrounded by a heart. It's a clear reference to her Instagram head games, and she should be sorry, because she's driving people to madness.

Her Instagram has been alarming GOT fans' delicate spoiler radar for some time now. Three months ago she posted a picture of herself fooling around with her co-star Pedro Pascal, who played Oberyn Martell — specifically, a picture in which she's got her thumbs over his eye sockets. Of course, as we've since learned, Oberyn got his head crushed by the Mountain, which makes Headey's skull-mauling photo a spoiler.

Two months ago, Headey posted another seemingly spoileriffic photo: A bunch of rocks arranged into the shape of a heart, captioned "my stone heart." Fans of the books know that a character named Lady Stoneheart makes an important appearance, and they assumed that Headey had once more spoiled one of this season's major plot twists. However, the finale has come and gone, and there's no sign of Lady Stoneheart.

In other words, she's messing with us. And now she's taunting us about it. I think Lena's been a Lannister for too long.

Melanie Griffith

Griffith proves a little cover up goes a long way in helping hide her past

If her arm is any indication, Melanie Griffith was apparently serious when she filed for divorce from husband Antonio Banderas after 17 years of marriage.

Griffith has a tattoo of a heart with the name "Antonio" in the middle just below her shoulder, but when the actress showed up at the Taormina Film Festival in Italy she applied heavy make-up to cover up the name, according to Getty Images. The heart surrounding the name was still visible, though, but with a big hole in it.

Mel Gibson giving a cold shoulder to eastern European women

Mel Gibson's bitter legal battle with ex Oksana Grigorieva has apparently soured him on Russian and Ukrainian women in general.

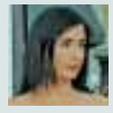
"He doesn't communicate with Ukrainian or Russian girls anymore. If Mel knows you're from there, he kind of just turns around and leaves," actress Natalie Burn, who plays Gibson's wife in Expendables 3, says, according to Star magazine. And that became a problem, because Burn herself was born in the Ukraine. "The producer was very nice, and he advised me not to tell him," she says, explaining that when Gibson asked if she was Brazilian she replied with, "Yeah, that works."

Mel Gibson

Twitter

@MarlonWayans
'Cause I'm happy!!! Haven't been this happy in YEARS! Loving life!

@rustyrockets
Can we topple elites by sharing? What's the best use of technology? Who's making us think about immigrants?

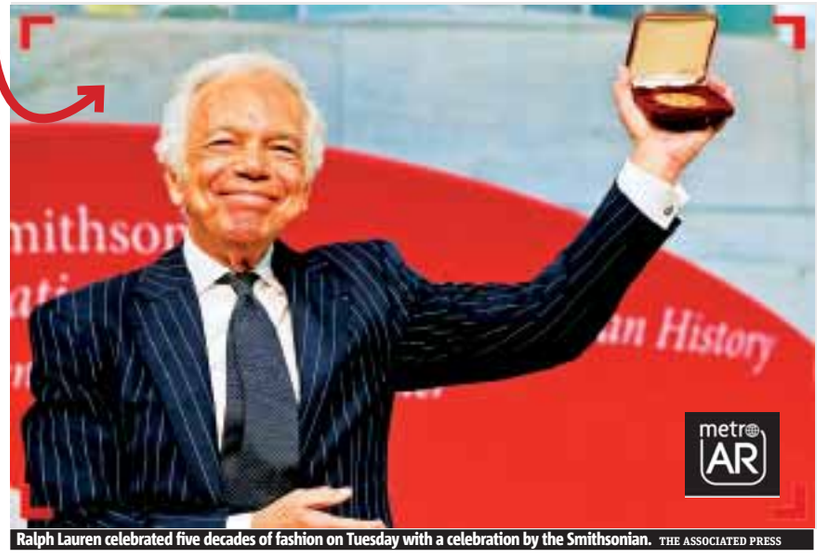


@SarahKSilverman
YOU'RE NOT REAL.

Scan this photo with your Metro News app to see Ralph Lauren presented with an award by the First Lady.

The nice guy with neckties

Ralph Lauren. As the designer is honoured by the Smithsonian for his work, he reflects on his journey to the top



Ralph Lauren celebrated five decades of fashion on Tuesday with a celebration by the Smithsonian. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He's a designer who has gone from selling ties from a drawer at the Empire State Building in 1967 to running a corporation with 25,000 employees.

Ralph Lauren was honoured Tuesday by the Smithsonian Institution for his career and to mark the 200th anniversary of the original flag that inspired the writing of the U.S. national anthem.

Lauren was awarded the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal "for his embodiment of the American experience" and for "supporting artistry, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship for more than five decades."

Lauren sat down with media to discuss his five decades in fashion.

What drew you into the world of fashion originally?
Luck. No, you know I never went to fashion school. I somehow was a young guy, grew up in the Bronx and ... I don't know how I can put it together, whether it's movies or it's being in a world where you can read books and go to movies and dream.

Also being the youngest child in the family and getting all hand-me-downs and sort of saying, 'Wait a minute, I want my own clothes.'

So when your parents are not able to afford the kind of clothes (I wanted) as a kid growing up, I had to work myself and earn my way and buy my own things. I just wanted to look like one of the guys and have the girls look at me.

What does this award from the Smithsonian mean to you?
It's probably the greatest honour one could have. The honour is mine to give to them because I'm part of this country.

What do you consider your career highlights?
I started with neckties, which are a very small thing and people aren't even wearing them today. Neckties helped start my career. When a man wore a tie, it had to make a statement.

I think every time I created a new brand, from men's to women's to children to home, they were interesting elements.

My clothes are not about fashion. They're about living. They're about how you live and how you want to live. And they're not about in-and-out fashion that's trendy or the hot news of the day. I think most people want stability. They want to feel that if they go out and buy something, they want good quality, good value for their money. They don't want to spend it frivolously and find that it's out of style.

How do you define your philosophy of fashion?
I can say that I'm about style, not fashion. I'm about timeless style, about quality, and that doesn't mean it has to be boring.

That means it's something that continues on because I don't throw out my clothes. The suit that I'm wearing is an old suit. I didn't just make this suit. I like the familiarity in a way because it's mine ... People say, 'I've worn your clothes for years and my child loves your clothes, my little girl loves your clothes.' I've been very connected to the people out there that buy my things and who appreciate it.

And sometimes they stop and say it, so that's very nice.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I started with neckties, which are a very small thing and people aren't even wearing them today. Neckties helped start my career."
Ralph Lauren

You may have a dozen little black dresses but do you have enough little white dresses? Go online to Trends Report to see how some of your favourite celebs are styling the 'LWD' on the red carpet, and brighten up your wardrobe this summer.

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Photo via Getty Images

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Sarah

Age: 27

Occupation: Graphic Designer & Yoga Instructor

What she's wearing:
Hat from Frock, jean dress from Mendocino, Grey dress from Local Designer Sara Duke 'I made this for you,' necklace from Purr Clothing in Calgary, sandals from Call it Spring and Bookhou purse.

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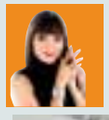


JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

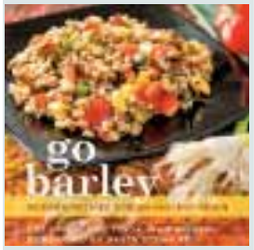
TWITTER ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Lapping up the soulful sound of @SeanJonesMusic Amazing array of talent @mcacgallerry #MoonlightGala

Play dress-up with your barley burger

Cookbook of the Week

Modern cooking with ancient grain



Go Barley by Pat Inglis and Linda Whitworth shows readers how to transform their favourite dishes into nutritional powerhouses with the addition of the ancient grain. High in fibre, barley has been proven to lower cholesterol and promotes digestive health. Among the recipes in the book are: Barley Minestrone, Barley Tabbouleh, Barley Banana Bread, and more. **METRO**

Backyard bites. This vegetarian burger is made with an ancient grain that will not only fill you up, but is good for you, too!

"Fire up the grill!" write Pat Inglis and Linda Whitworth in their book Go Barley.

"These vegetarian barley burgers are simple and easy to make. Serve in buns and top with salsa or wasabi stirred into mayonnaise, as well as lettuce, sliced tomatoes, and onions.

"You can also add a slice of cheese while browning the second side."

Ingredients

- 1 cup (250 ml) pearl barley
- 3 cups (750 ml) water
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) canola oil, divided
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 1 small carrot, finely chopped
- 1/2 lb (250 g) mushrooms, chopped
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) chopped parsley
- 1 tsp (5 ml) grated lemon rind
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) pepper
- 2 cups (500 ml) fresh bread crumbs, divided

1. In a medium saucepan over high heat, combine barley and water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cover pan; simmer for 45 to 50 minutes or until barley is tender. If necessary, drain any excess water. Spread in a shallow dish to cool.

2. In skillet over medium-high, heat half of the oil. Add onion, garlic, and carrot; stir and cook for 3 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add mushrooms and cook until any liquid evaporates. Add parsley, lemon rind, salt, and pepper. Combine mixture with barley. Stir in 1/2 cup (125 ml) of the bread crumbs. Place in a food processor and process until mixture holds together but you can still see some of the barley.

This recipe serves six. THE ALBERTA BARLEY COMMISSION (GOBARLEY.COM)

3. On a plastic-wrap-lined tray or baking sheet, spoon mixture into 6 portions; shape into patties and coat with remaining bread crumbs.

4. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat the remaining oil and cook burgers 5 minutes per side or until browned and crisp. Alternately, heat the barbecue to medium-high and generously spray the grill with oil. Barbecue for 5 minutes per side. **EXCERPTED FROM GO BARLEY BY PAT INGLIS AND LINDA WHITWORTH (TOUCHWOOD, 2014). YOU CAN FIND THIS RECIPE AND MORE AT GOBARLEY.COM.**

Hello, sailor!

One of the simplest ways to summer-ize your space is by adding white and blue to your existing decor. Nautical accessories create a crisp look during hot weather months and look great with almost any colour scheme. Ships ahoy!

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Bold as brass

Trendsetting brass is back and looks ship-regal when paired with bright white and navy blue. Hang from tree branches or use to create a nautical table centrepiece. Outdoor brass candle lanterns from $129, Homesense.ca

Drop anchor

Welcome your sailor home by anchoring the front door with a hearty, foot-swiping mat. Anchor Floor Mat, $29, WestElm.com

In the navy

Bright white porcelain banded with navy creates a classic summer table setting. Roulette Blue Band Dinnerware, 16 pieces, $175. CrateAndBarrel.com

The A, B of seas

Scrub up while learning the international maritime flag alphabet. Heavy-gauge 100 per cent PEVA curtain with nickel-plated grommets. Signal Flag Shower Curtain, $33, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

Pillow talk

A vintage nautical-inspired print for dreaming sailors. Sea Anchor Pillowcase, $20, Simons.ca

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Scan the image with the Metro News app for more photos from Day 7 of the World Cup

Group A

Mandzukic leads Croatia to send Cameroon home

Mario Mandzukic scored two goals Wednesday to keep Croatia in the mix at the World Cup with a 4-0 win over 10-man Cameroon, which cannot now advance from the group stage.

Mandzukic, who returned to the team at the Arena da Amazonia after sitting out the opening loss to Brazil through suspension, headed in a corner from Danijel Pranjic in the 61st minute and then knocked in a rebound in the 73rd of the Group A game.

Ivan Perisic also scored one goal and made another for Ivica Olic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria

Bomb blast kills 14 watching World Cup

Survivors of a bomb blast at an illegal World Cup viewing site in northeast Nigeria that killed at least 14 people said Wednesday the force of the explosion blew off limbs and knocked people senseless.

Unrelated to the attack, police said security forces arrested nearly 500 people, including a "terror kingpin" in the southeast of the country.

At least 26 people were wounded in Tuesday night's blast as soccer fans were viewing the Brazil-Mexico match in Damaturu, the capital of Yobe state, police said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hasta la vista, Spain

Eliminated. Chileans oust mighty Spaniards with a 2-0 win

Sergio Busquets of Spain reacts after a missed scoring chance against Chile on Wednesday in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Defending champion Spain, the dominant global football power for the past six years, was eliminated from World Cup contention Wednesday with a 2-0 loss to Chile.

Spain's famed passing game failed against a high-tempo, tenacious Chile team, its era ending in the storied Maracana Stadium filled mostly with Chilean supporters.

Eduardo Vargas tricked goalkeeper Iker Casillas into diving the wrong way, then shot into an unguarded goal in the 20th minute. Charles Aranguiz scored in the 43rd when the ball landed at his feet after Casillas punched out a free kick.

Spain's second loss, after a 5-1 rout by the Netherlands, ended any hope of advancing. In Group B, Chile and the Netherlands will both advance, regardless of who wins the game between them.

Spain won the European Championship in 2008 and 2012, in addition to the 2010 World Cup.

Spain came to Brazil with a very similar — but older — team than the one that won those titles. They added Brazilian-born striker Diego Costa, but he failed to score a goal.

Their "tiki-taka" style of play — keeping the ball for long stretches with short passes, and only shooting when you had a clear opening — had not been working as well in recent years. Brazil defeated Spain 3-0 in last summer's Confederations Cup, a warm-up for the World Cup.

Spain became the third straight European defending World Cup champion to flop in the group stage. France in 2002 and Italy four years ago also failed to advance, or even win a match.

Group B

0	2
Spain	Chile

Badly needing a win, del Bosque stayed loyal to captain Casillas despite the veteran goalkeeper's errors against the Dutch.

Two pillars of Spain's title runs, Barcelona pair Xavi Hernandez and Gerard Pique with a combined 194 appearances, were left out.

Xabi Alonso probably should have joined them. His agonizing first half typified Spain's problems and his errors led to both goals.

And Alonso's selection left a younger version of his former self, Atletico Madrid's Koke, on the bench until the logical change was made at half time.

Alonso gave away the ball to Alexis Sanchez to start a move down Chile's right wing by Arturo Vidal and Aranguiz, leading to Vargas' score. Alonso trailed behind the play and put his hands to his head.

Alonso was booked in the 40th before conceding another foul, on Sanchez, three minutes later 20 meters out.

When Casillas punched away Sanchez's curling free-kick, Aranguiz trapped the ball then flicked a rising shot spinning away from the goalkeeper's reach.

Alonso had Spain's best early chance, a 15th-minute shot smothered by Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo.

Often wayward in its passing, Spain missed two clear chances early in the second half.

Costa was slow on Andres Iniesta's threaded pass in the 49th, and Sergio Busquets was guilty of a glaring miss, volleying wide from five meters in the 53rd.

After Bravo pushed away shots by substitute Santi Cazorla and Iniesta, Chile's win was sealed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dutch edge Socceroos in frantic match

Memphis Depay of the Netherlands celebrates his team's victory over Australia on Wednesday, in Porto Alegre, Brazil. VINICIUS COSTA/GETTY IMAGES

Louis van Gaal can pinpoint the moment he knew his Netherlands team would be able to hold off Australia and secure the win that ultimately put them through to the knockout rounds of the World Cup.

With just over 20 minutes to go in a frantic, seesawing match, Australia missed a golden chance to take a 3-2 lead.

Van Gaal saw that as the sign and turned to his assistant coaches to tell them.

"I said to Patrick Kluivert and Danny Blind, 'We're going to win this match because if they miss that kind of chance, we will score the goal.'"

Seconds later, he was proved right. From the very next attack, substitute Memphis Depay drove a swerving, speculative shot toward the goal from 25 yards. Australian goalkeeper Maty Ryan didn't sight it early enough and the ball shot past his outstretched right hand.

It capped a game that intensified suddenly when a 20th-minute solo run and strike by Arjen Robben was cancelled out seconds later by a stunning volley from Australia's inspirational veteran Tim Cahill.

Australia then went ahead with a second-half penalty, only for Robin Van Persie to equalize four minutes later.

The result left the Netherlands on the verge of advancing from Group B. That was confirmed a few hours later when Chile beat Spain.

Toronto-born midfielder Jonathan de Guzman made his second straight start for the Netherlands, playing 78 minutes before being substituted for Giorginio Wijnaldum.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

Brantford's David Hearn ready for elusive PGA victory

Three top-10 results.
Canuck feels he can 'put it all together' this season

Canada's David Hearn came achingly close to his first PGA Tour victory last season.

He's had three top-10 results this season and feels ready to put it all together and finally hoist a trophy at the top level.

"I feel really close," Hearn said Wednesday. "I got really close last year at the John Deere (Classic) just before the Canadian Open. I'm a little bit surprised it's taken me quite as long to get back into contention.

"But I feel like everything is right where it needs to be to have a week where I know I could put it all together. I've improved a lot of little areas of my game and I feel like my game is consistently better."

Canada's David Hearn
GETTY IMAGES

Hearn's best career finish came at the 2013 John Deere Classic. He was tied with Jordan Spieth and Zach Johnson after regulation but Spieth took the title by hitting a par putt on the fifth playoff hole.

The 35-year-old from Brantford, Ont., is enjoying a short break before ramping things up in July. He plans to play at The Greenbrier Classic early next month before returning to the John Deere Classic.

Entry in the British Open remains a question mark for now but Hearn is locked in for the July 24-27 RBC Canadian Open at the Royal Montreal Golf Club. He has yet to play the Île-Bizard, Que., course but feels his game should be a good fit for the old-style, tree-lined layout. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays blowing it in Bronx

Toronto Blue Jays starter Mark Buehrle looks into the outfield after surrendering a two-run home run in the fourth inning against the Yankees' Brian McCann on Wednesday night in New York. The Jays lost 7-3. JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Signing draft picks

Jays come to terms with pitchers

Left-handed pitchers Nick Wells and Grayson Huffman both signed with the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday.

Toronto has now signed 25 of the players it selected in the 2014 first-year player draft.

Wells, the Blue Jays' third-round pick, is six-foot-five and weighs 180 pounds. At 6-2, 190 pounds, Huffman was Toronto's sixth-round selection. THE CANADIAN PRESS

San Fran struggling

White Sox push Giants' skid to 5

Jose Abreu hit his 20th homer, a two-run shot, Adam Dunn added a three-run home run, and the Chicago White Sox beat San Francisco 7-6 on Wednesday, handing the Giants their fifth straight loss.

Giants ace Tim Hudson was hit hard for all seven runs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Everyone thinks you're a star so why are you being so negative about your prospects? Step outside yourself today and see how you look through other people's eyes.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
There is no point cursing fate if what happens today is not to your liking. In the long-term everything will come good, so never doubt that no matter what happens, you will be stronger for it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You pride yourself on being rational but with Mercury, your ruler, moving retrograde not every thought you have will be based on reason. Don't be too stubborn. There are times when it's OK to change your mind.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
An offer will tempt you but can you be sure it is genuine? According to the planets you have reason to be suspicious, so take care when dealing with people who promise you the world for a small investment.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
People will be moody today, which in turn will annoy you. Before the situation spirals out of control remind yourself that in the greater scheme of things it's of little importance.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A relationship will come under pressure today and if you say the wrong thing it may even end. Tomorrow you will regret having been so outspoken but it needed to happen.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are at a crossroads as far as a creative project is concerned. Do you carry on with it or do give up and focus your energy in a new direction? Give it some serious thought.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Make sure you get your chores out of the way as quickly as possible over the next 24 hours. If you let what should have been done today wait until tomorrow you will fall behind and may never catch up.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It is vital that you deal with an outstanding feud immediately because if you allow it to linger it will hold you back and that could be disastrous.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you aren't in the mood to work today, don't push yourself. Even if you force yourself to do what is expected of you it's unlikely you'll do a good job of it, so wait until you are in a more positive frame of mind.

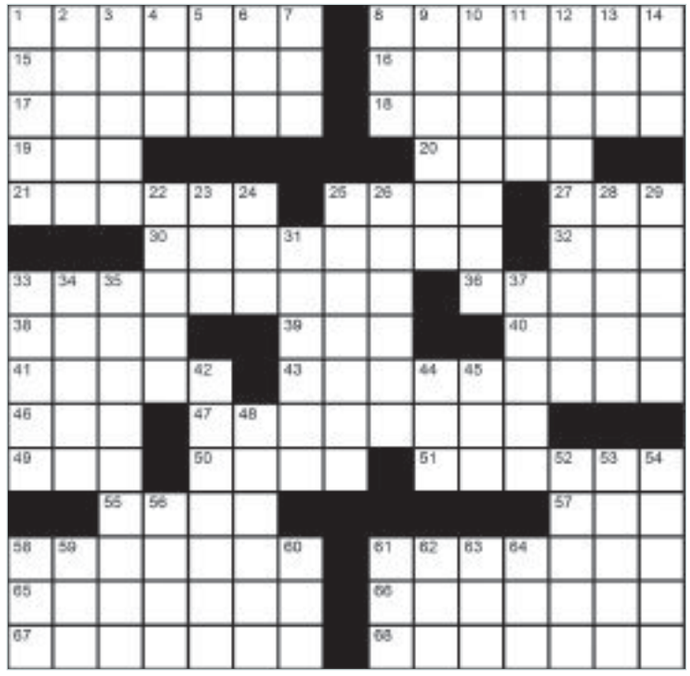
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What are you waiting for? Something is holding you back from taking risks and that's a shame because the planets suggest that if you take a chance today it could pay off in a big way. Do you dare?

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You are worrying about things you have no way of changing. According to the planets what you fear the most is the one thing that is least likely to happen, so be brave and go on the attack. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



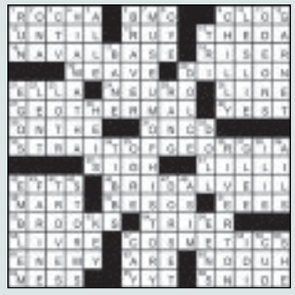
Across

1. Halifax pita specialties
8. Oscar Peterson tune about a Montreal locale: "Place __. __"
15. Seasoning sort
16. Sunglasses and spectacles
17. Lake Ontario archipelago-by-the-city, Toronto __
18. Stretches out
19. First word in Inferno by Dante
20. Long times
21. John Travolta movie
25. Prefix to 'dextrous'
27. Got the parcel, briefly
30. "Elvira: __ of the Dark" (1988)
32. Have a bug
33. Ron Sexsmith song about his St. Catharines, ON hometown: "__ Street"; or, Pen name J.K. Rowling uses for her new crime novel The Silkworm, Robert __
36. Nero's 1406
38. Actor Mr. Jannings
39. Hr. part
40. Geese: French
41. Juliet's beloved
43. "Chopped Canada" host Dean
46. Regret
47. Roof window
49. 12 mo. periods
50. Foundation
51. Sisters: French
55. Norse thunder god
57. Egg mass
58. Taken aback
61. Kirkland Lake, ON: __ & South Mine Complex
65. Ms. Judd
66. Strange
67. Most profound
68. Claude __ (French composer, b.1862 - d.1918)

Down

1. Faring
2. Canadian figure skating great Brian
3. Portia's "Ally McBeal" character
4. Turkish title [var. sp.]
5. Sir McKellen
6. Boxing bout div.
7. Rihanna's "_._._. (Rescue Me)"
8. Ms. Hinton's
9. Easygoing people, e.g.: 2 wds.
10. Valour
11. Mr. McGregor
12. '90s broadcasting-themed sitcom starring Canadian comedians Dave Foley and Phil Hartman
13. Early-'60s singer Mr. Donner
14. American tax org.
22. Mosey along
23. Knight's title
24. Conductor, __-Pekka Salonen
25. The = Definite __
26. Henna-on-hands artwork
28. Spotted cat-like mammal
29. "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the _-__"
31. Mr. Horton's donut chain, endearingly
33. Canadian comedian Mr. Dee
34. Love: French
35. Sedimentary rock kind
37. Le __ de Monte-Cristo
42. Bob Einstein's alter ego, Super Dave ___
44. For instances, for short
45. Greek alphabet's 17th letter
48. Actress Ms. Allen's
52. Bear, fancy-style
53. Civil Rights activist Ms. Parks, and namesakes
54. Mattress manufacturer
56. Basketball net
58. E-Mail subj. line directive
59. Caustic
60. Info, briefly
61. Spa mask ingredient
62 'Meth' suffix
63. Lion's offspring
64. Pac-12 sch.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	7	1				2		
			7	2				6
4					1			7
		5	6		9		2	
	3			8			1	
	2		3		7	9		
1			4					5
5				9	8			
		6				4	9	

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	5	3	9	4	2	1	6	8
6	1	2	8	5	7	3	9	4
8	9	4	1	3	6	2	7	5
5	4	1	3	6	8	9	2	7
2	6	9	7	1	5	4	8	3
3	7	8	4	2	9	5	1	6
4	8	6	2	9	3	7	5	1
9	3	7	5	8	1	6	4	2
1	2	5	6	7	4	8	3	9

Today 20°/11° Thundershowers 40%
Friday 22°/13° Variable
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

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